

Gettysburg again turns blue and gray



GETTYSBURG, Pa. (AP) — Amid shouts of "Fire!" and the thunder of cannon, thousands of men in blue and gray stormed each other to re-enact the opening of the Battle of Gettysburg, 125 years after the Civil War's bloodiest confrontation.

A total of about 8,000 men representing Union and Confederate troops traded mock rifle volleys and cannon bursts Friday, ripping open paper gunpowder cartridges with their teeth while enemy lines closed in.

The Confederate troops pushed back the Union's black-hatted "Iron Brigade," as scores of men on both sides feigned death in the tall grass and spectators watched from a hill overlooking the field.

"When it gets to firing, you're not in 1988 anymore, you're in 1863," said Jeff Douthit, a 28-year-old farmer from Unionville, Va.

The participants, among them teachers, engineers, artists and soldiers, had invested \$1,000 to outfit themselves with the uniform, gear and guns needed to become Civil War soldiers, if only for a day or two.

Soldiers in the 23rd New York Regiment, played by a group from Arizona, went so far as to follow Union recipes down to "hardtack," hard, flat squares of bread.

"You might think it was made 125

years ago. It's that indigestible," said Ed Gouvier, a 37-year-old engineer from Phoenix.

Mentioning anything modern by members of the 23rd New York resulted in punishment: standing on a wooden crate at the end of one of the rows of white, canvas tents.

Gouvier said people joined the outfit for a chance to relive history, for the camaraderie, or to take part in the battles.

"I've always been a history fanatic," he said.

Others had more personal reasons for joining one of the ersatz armies.

Steve DiCarlo, of Owings, Md., said he became a member of the 18th Virginia Regiment in part because his great-great-grandfather was a captain in the Confederate Army.

"My wife thinks I'm crazy," he said.

Napoleonic Tactics Inc., which sold tickets to cover its \$450,000 budget for staging three days of ersatz warfare, has billed the event as the largest Civil War re-enactment ever. The consulting company was hired by the event's sponsor, the American Civil War Commemorative Committee Inc.

A total of 75,000 spectators were expected to attend the re-enactment, which ends Sunday.



Facial injuries suffered by some Civil War buffs at Gettysburg "re-enactment" made the battle more real than anticipated.

Yankee and Confederate cavalymen engage in sabre duel during Saturday's re-enactment of 1863 Battle of Gettysburg.

AP photo

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Troops arrest 3 Marcos loyalists

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Troops arrested three renegade soldiers loyal to deposed President Ferdinand Marcos in a raid at dawn on Saturday and found a plan to attack the capital's international airport, police said.

Police Lt. Col. Romeo Maganto said the men apprehended in an apartment in Manila's Tondo slum district belonged to a group led by former Lt. Col. Reynaldo Cabatuan, who was involved in coup attempts against President Corazon Aquino's government.

Aquino was swept into the presidency by a popular military-civilian uprising which drove Marcos into ex-

ile in February 1986.

Maganto said the three men seized — John Sultan, Eric Reyes, and Roberto Martinez — were former army trainees who were absent without leave. He said military authorities were trying to find out if they were part of a group that raided the constabulary headquarters armory in suburban Manila two weeks ago.

Police said a 30-year-old woman, Tessie Liu, was found in the same apartment and was taken in for questioning.

Maganto said that besides documents, including the airport attack plan, soldiers' uniforms, flag patch-

es, miniature Philippine flags and pamphlets of right-wing groups were found. Troops found ammunition but no firearms, the officer said.

Seven renegade soldiers were captured in a raid Monday on the capital's outskirts. Armed forces chief of staff Gen. Renato de Villa said the seven belonged to the "Black Force Commando," which raided the constabulary camp.

A military official said meanwhile on Saturday that five guerrillas were killed and an undetermined number were wounded when military helicopters fired rockets on a communist rebel camp in southern Surigao del Sur province.

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500 pounds of cocaine seized after forced landing

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — Authorities confiscated more than 500 pounds of cocaine after a light plane believed to be from Colombia made a forced landing during a storm, police said Saturday.

National Police press officer Vicente Ortiz said the seizure, made Tuesday, was the biggest in Salvadoran history. He said several people were under arrest, but he refused to provide their names.

The daily El Diario de Hoy, citing police sources, said six Salvadorans and one Colombian were arrested.

It said the plane's Colombian pilot landed the single-engine Cessna during a storm Tuesday on a strip on a farm 40 miles west of San Salvador.

Police said the pilot, hampered by poor visibility, knocked down electrical wires as he came in for a landing.

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